

# DAILY BULLETIN

JULY 14, 2006

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## NEW DRAFT RESOLUTION ON NORTH KOREA NOT STRONG ENOUGH, U.S. SAYS

Russian-Chinese draft does not call missile program threat to peace, stability

By Judy Aita  
Washington File UN Correspondent

A new Russian-Chinese draft resolution on North Korea submitted to the U.N. Security Council July 12 has very serious omissions but is a positive move overall, U.S., Japanese and French officials say.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton called the Russian-Chinese proposal “a significant step,” pointing out that Russia and China initially wanted a press statement after the North Korean missile launches July 4, then a few days later suggested a presidential statement, which is not binding on U.N. member nations.

“Now they have introduced a draft resolution ... which is the appropriate measure through which the Security Council should act,” Bolton said July 12. Russia and China “have now joined all the other members of the council who have preferred a resolution from the time the missiles were launched.”

French Ambassador to the United Nations Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said the draft showed a “meaningful evolution” in the Russian and Chinese positions.

The Chinese-Russian draft deplores North Korea’s July 4 missile launches, urges Pyongyang to reestablish its missile test moratorium and calls on nations to

“exercise vigilance” in preventing the supply of goods, technology and materials that could be used in North Korea’s missile program.

The Russian-Chinese draft “is a welcome move in the right direction,” Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Kenzo Oshima said the same day. “But a quick glance at the text shows that there are very serious gaps on very important issues.”

“I believe that it will be very difficult for us to accept that as it is,” Oshima said.

According to Bolton, one of the deficiencies in the text is the failure to declare the North Korean missile program a threat to international peace and security. Another is the failure to invoke Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which makes the resolution mandatory.

“We have felt from the time we learned of the launch of North Korean missiles that a Chapter 7 binding resolution is necessary because we want to bind North Korea,” the U.S. ambassador said. “Now if there is language that the Russians and Chinese have to propose that [has] the same effect of binding the North Koreans, then I suppose we’re happy to take a look at it.”

The new draft resolution dealing with North Korea’s launch of several ballistic missiles and its nuclear program is a counter to a more strongly worded Japanese draft resolution co-sponsored by Denmark, France, Greece, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States. That draft, which is awaiting U.N. Security Council action, would impose mandatory economic sanctions if North Korea does not immediately end developing, testing and deploying the missiles. (See related article.)

Russia and China have objected to the Japanese draft resolution, and Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said July 12 that he would veto the measure if put to a vote as it now reads.

The co-sponsors of Japan’s resolution have said they are prepared to put their draft to a vote but are assessing the situation day-to-day while a Chinese diplomatic mission is in North Korea attempting to draw Pyongyang back to the Six-Party Talks with South Korea, Russia, Japan, China and the United States.

Oshima said that “so far, not much apparently has happened” with the Chinese mission.

## UNITED STATES BLOCKS SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL

U.S. Ambassador Bolton calls on Iran, Syria to  
stop fueling Hamas terrorism

By Judy Aita  
Washington File UN Correspondent

United Nations -- The United States has blocked a Security Council resolution calling on Israel to halt its military operations in Gaza.

The United States used its veto July 13 to stop a Qatar-sponsored resolution that condemned the Israeli military operation, calling it a disproportionate use of force. The resolution received 10 votes in favor; Denmark, Peru, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom abstained. The United States vetoed a similar resolution on Israeli operations in Gaza in October 2004.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton called the text “unbalanced” in that it placed demands on one side of the Middle East conflict and not the other. He added that it would exacerbate tensions in the region and was “untimely” and “outmoded” because it did not take into account current operations on the Israeli-Lebanese border or U.N. efforts.

“Passage would have undermined the credibility of the Security Council, which itself must be seen by both sides as an honest broker in the Middle East conflict,” Bolton told the council. The issue for the United States is whether action by the council makes a peaceful solution in the Middle East more or less likely, “not simply whether or not the council seems to be ‘engaged.’”

The best way to resolve the immediate crisis, the ambassador said, “is for Hamas to secure the safe and unconditional release” of the Israeli soldier kidnapped on June 25.

Bolton criticized the resolution for not taking into account Hizballah attacks along the blue line between Israel and Lebanon and ignoring Hamas and its Syrian and Iranian sponsors.

Establishing the foundations for peace will require the council to focus on the state sponsors of terror who back Hamas, he said. “Without the financial and material support of Damascus and Tehran, Hamas would be severely crippled in carrying out its terrorist operations.”

“We call upon Syria and Iran to end their role as state sponsors of terror and unequivocally condemn the actions of Hamas,” including the kidnapping, Bolton said. “We yet again call upon Syria to arrest the Hamas leader, Khaled Meshal, who currently resides in Damascus.

“We stress again our condemnation of Syrian and Iranian support of Hizballah, which has claimed responsibility for the other kidnappings along the blue line,” he said.

The ambassador also called on the government of the Palestinian Authority “to stop all acts of violence and terror and comply with the principles enunciated by the Quartet: renounce terror, recognize Israel, and accept previous obligations and agreements, including the road map.”

The Quartet for Middle East peace includes the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and the United States.

Earlier on July 13, Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced that he was dispatching a three-person team led by his special political adviser, Vijay Nambiar, to the Middle East to help defuse the crisis. Accompanying Nambiar are Alvaro de Soto and Terje Roed Larsen.

The team will visit Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon and Syria to emphasize the need for restraint and Annan’s offer to do whatever possible to help contain the conflict, a U.N. spokesman said.

The resolution condemned both Israeli and Palestinian actions and called on the Palestinian Authority to take immediate and sustained action to bring an end to violence, including the firing of rockets into Israel.

It also called for the immediate and unconditional release of all detained Palestinian ministers, legislators and other officials, and emphasized the need to preserve the institutions of the Palestinian Authority.

## U.S. DRUG REGULATORS APPROVE ONCE-A-DAY AIDS PILL

Simplification of treatment is expected to increase effectiveness

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new one-pill, once-a-day medication that could simplify a difficult drug regimen for AIDS patients in both the United States and the developing world.

The FDA July 12 approved Atripla™ tablets, manufactured in an unusual alliance between two major pharmaceutical companies, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Gilead Inc. Atripla™ combines medications previously developed and marketed by the two competing companies.

Atripla™ combines Sustiva® (efavirenz), a Bristol-Myers Squibb product and Truvada®, a Gilead product containing Emtriva (emtricitabine) and Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).

“[This] approval is a significant example of drug developers and FDA clearing the way to quickly deliver quality, life-saving HIV-AIDS drugs to people who desperately need them in the United States and abroad,” said Andrew C. von Eschenbach, acting commissioner of food and drugs. “Fixed dose combination products are an important tool in improving the quality of health care in developing nations.”

One reason HIV/AIDS is such a serious disease is because the virus has the capability to elude the human immune system. In the 25 years since the disease emerged, researchers and pharmaceutical companies developed medications to attack the virus, but found the virus quickly could develop resistance to those medications. A breakthrough discovery came in the early 1990s when researchers found that a “cocktail” of drugs was the most effective, available way to control HIV in the body.

A multidrug regimen is difficult, however, requiring a patient to take multiple pills throughout the day on a strict schedule. Development of a combination drug makes a therapeutic regimen easier to follow, and thus, more likely to be effective.

“The approval of Atripla™ simplifies the treatment regimen for HIV-1 infected adults, and will potentially

improve the ability of patients to adhere to treatment resulting in long-term effective control of HIV-1,” said Eschenbach in an FDA press release. “This offers a particularly important advantage for patients in many countries that are the most affected by the AIDS epidemic and will also have a major impact in the U.S.”

The FDA did its part to speed the movement of the medication to the market, approving the combination drug in only two months. All of Atripla’s™ component medications previously had been approved by the agency. The combination form underwent an additional 48-week clinical trial in which 80 percent of participants achieved a marked reduction of the virus level in their systems.

“Patients will now have rapid access to the first once-daily single tablet regimen for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults,” said John C. Martin, president and chief executive officer of Gilead Sciences in a corporate press release. “We are proud to have worked closely with Bristol-Myers Squibb in this precedent-setting collaboration to simplify therapy for physicians and patients.”

Simplicity of therapy also has been an issue of concern in the developing world where HIV/AIDS patients may not have the easy access to the support offered by clinics and medical care providers. Combination drugs are considered an answer to some of those difficulties.

In June, the FDA approved another combination drug, one containing lamivudine, zidovudine and nevirapin, the active ingredients in previously approved and widely used drugs in anti-retroviral AIDS medications.

Aurobindo Phara Ltd. of Hyderabad, India, applied for approval for this three-in-one drug, which cannot be marketed in the United States where existing patents and exclusivity agreements of the various components prevent the manufacture of a combined drug. International agreements allow these restrictions to be waived if the drug is distributed in nations where the HIV/AIDS epidemic is considered a health crisis.

FDA approval of the drugs means they are available for purchase and distribution in the 15 countries targeted by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the five-year, \$15 billion campaign to address the disease.

Officials anticipate that the FDA approval will clear the way for distribution of combination drugs in the near future. Since its 2003 inception, PEPFAR has been work-

ing to institute AIDS programs and begin distribution of life-saving drugs. The program had reached 561,000 people with medication as of May, with a goal of reaching 2 million HIV-infected people by 2008.

PEPFAR also aims to prevent 7 million new infections and to provide humane care for 10 million people in these 15 countries. The program is on track to meet those goals.

PEPFAR targets 15 of the world’s nations most severely stricken with AIDS, but a total of 120 nations are receiving U.S. assistance to cope with the pandemic.

A fact sheet on the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is available on the State Department Web site.:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/67502.pdf>

For more information on U.S. policies and programs, see HIV/AIDS:

[http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html)

## UNITED STATES APPROVES \$547 MILLION TO FIGHT POVERTY IN GHANA

Millennium Challenge program will help more than 1 million Ghanaians

By Helen I. Rouse  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) July 12 approved a five-year program valued at approximately \$547 million to fight poverty in the West African country of Ghana.

MMC compact authorized a program that will benefit more than 1 million Ghanaians by focusing on rural agriculture, transportation and community development, officials say. The largest MCC compact to date, it will target some of Ghana’s poorest rural districts, where poverty rates range from 40 to 90 percent. It is expected directly to alleviate the poverty of more than 230,000 Ghanaians.

“This program is designed to drive economic growth through the efforts of and for the benefit of some of the

poorest farmers and farming communities in Ghana,” said MCC’s chief executive officer, John Danilovich.

“MCC was designed and created to work with and reward nations that have demonstrated a commitment to adopting sound political, economic and social policies that will reduce poverty through economic growth,” Danilovich said.

“Like all MCA countries, Ghana’s participation in MCC’s program is predicated on its dedication to three fundamental principles: ruling justly, investing in people and encouraging economic freedom,” he added. (See Millennium Challenge Account.)

The program’s agriculture component – the largest component, with an estimated five-year cost of \$241 million – aims to enhance the profitability of commercial agriculture among small farmers by improving their business and farming skills, access to credit, land tenure and marketing services. The program is also expected to improve irrigation and rehabilitate rural roads.

The transportation component, estimated to cost \$143 million over five years, includes rehabilitation of a 14-kilometer stretch of the major highway linking the international airport in Accra, the capital, and the port city of Tema.

This component also will finance the rebuilding or construction of 230 kilometers of two-lane roads to improve access to agricultural markets and social services in the central Afram Basin area. In addition, it will support improvements to the Lake Volta ferry service to facilitate faster access to markets.

A rural development component, which will cost \$101 million over five years, will expand access to community services and strengthen rural institutions by funding construction and rehabilitation of schools, water and sanitation facilities, electrification of rural areas and capacity-building support for local government institutions.

The rural development component also will finance an initiative to automate and interconnect 121 small rural, community-owned banks and will fund other improvements in the national payments systems that will bring into the financial system people currently not served or underserved.

Since its establishment in 2004, MCC has approved compacts totaling more than \$2.1 billion with nine nations:

Madagascar, Honduras, Cape Verde, Nicaragua, Georgia, Benin, Vanuatu, Armenia and Ghana. MCC also is negotiating compacts with other eligible countries.

More information on Ghana’s MCC compact is available in a fact sheet on the MCC Web site:

[http://www.mcc.gov/public\\_affairs/fact\\_sheets/Ghana\\_compact\\_fact\\_sheet.shtml](http://www.mcc.gov/public_affairs/fact_sheets/Ghana_compact_fact_sheet.shtml)

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#### U.S. PROJECT CONVERTS WEAPONS-GRADE URANIUM INTO FUEL

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Nuclear security agency, two U.S. firms complete seven-year program

Washington —A six-year-old effort to turn nuclear weapons material into fuel for electricity has been accomplished, according the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

The NNSA announced July 13 that, working with two U.S. companies, it has converted about 50 tons of highly enriched uranium (HEU) — enough to make 800 nuclear warheads — into 660 tons of low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel for commercial nuclear power plants. That is enough fuel to power a typical commercial reactor for about 34 years, or to generate enough electricity to run every household in the United States for 81 days, according to NNSA.

“We have successfully turned weapons material into something people can use to turn the lights on,” said NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks.

The Department of Energy transferred the highly enriched uranium to the private United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) for disposition in the commercial fuel market. USEC, in turn, contracted with BWX Technologies to mix (the process is termed “downblending”) the highly enriched uranium with natural uranium. BWXT also manages NNSA’s Y-12 National Security Complex.

The conversion process took about seven years, according to NNSA. USEC sold the product of the process



-- commercial reactor-grade low-enriched uranium fuel

-- to its nuclear utility customers.

“The successful completion of this endeavor paves the way for future HEU reduction and conversion efforts,” said John Fees, BWXT’s president and chief operating officer.

NNSA’s HEU Downblending Program is a major component of the agency’s nonproliferation mission to reduce quantities of excess weapons-grade nuclear materials, according to a July 13 release.

NNSA, a quasi-autonomous entity within the Energy Department, also is tasked with keeping the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile safe, secure and reliable without nuclear testing.

For further information on U.S. nonproliferation programs, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation:  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/arms\\_control.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html)

Additional information about NNSA programs is available on the agency’s Web site:  
<http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/>

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